

would yield my time to him, Mr. President.

SPEAKER WITHEM: Senator Brashear.

SENATOR BRASHEAR: Mr. Speaker, members of the Legislature, Senator Kristensen, thank you very much. Maybe not raring to go at all. This has...I...this has come about and accelerated fairly quickly, but I think it...I think it is indeed fun and interesting and exciting and unifying and I want to indicate at the very beginning that I appreciate the help which Speaker Withem, the cosponsor of the bill, Chairman Kristensen of the Transportation Committee, the Department of Motor Vehicles has been most helpful and cooperative and I'm grateful for all of that. We can...we cannot, I think, underestimate the fun and the enjoyment that this may provide, I believe it will provide to citizens of the state of Nebraska. I think it's also...it really causes us to focus on how unifying the Cornhusker Spirit is in the state of Nebraska. We know the Cornhuskers are resident at the University of Nebraska-Lincoln, but the fact of the matter is that the phenomenon which we call "Husker spirit" prevails all over this state and is a result of the good will of the people of Nebraska for the Cornhuskers in all of their activities. We could not be adopting this at a more significant point in time. The football team, the volleyball team, the basketball team, even the marching band that entertains and delights during the halftime of games, this is the ideal time to adopt spirit plates. I am particularly grateful to the senior senator from Omaha, Senator Chambers, for allowing this bill to proceed. He's had a longstanding concern in this area, which I'm certain he will articulate, but we are on this accelerated track. The plates are relatively simple. We are talking about scarlet and cream plates. We are talking about numeric, not alphanumeric, numeric only plates. We are talking about a conservative estimate by the Department of Motor Vehicles that we may sell 30,000 sets of these per year at \$2.1 million per annum gross revenue. The Department of Motor Vehicles and the Highway Trust Fund is losing no revenue because the money that they would receive from prestige plates, if they were to be purchased, is the amount of money that is allocated to the Highway Trust Fund. The \$40 additional per plate is going to be used for, I think, some very significant purposes and, most of all, the benefits of that money will be returned to all those men and women who compete and provide enjoyment and bring attention to and demonstrate the excellence of the athletes of